

Appl. No. : 9/235,084
Filed : January 21, 1999

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 17 and 18 (the claims of Group II) have been canceled, as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Response to Rejection of Claims 1-16 and 19-33

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19-25, 27, 28, 31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,314,526 to Arendt, et al. (hereinafter "Arendt"). The Examiner rejected Claims 8, 11, 12, 15, 26, 29, 30, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arendt.

As disclosed in the specification on page 1 at lines 6-8, the present application claims priority benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/072,128 (hereinafter the '128 application), filed January 22, 1998, titled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR UNIVERSAL DATA EXCHANGE GATEWAY." Claims 1-16 and 19-33 are fully supported by the '128 application, and thus Claims 1-16 and 19-33 are entitled to the filing date of January 22, 1998. The filing date of Arendt is July 10, 1998. Thus, Applicants' invention date precedes the filing date of Arendt, and Arendt is not a prior art reference under either U.S.C. § 102(e) or U.S.C. § 103(a).

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-16 and 19-33.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing arguments, Applicants assert that Claims 1-16 and 19-33 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants request allowance of Claims 1-16 and 19-33. If there is any impediment to the allowance 1-16 and 19-33, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record at (949) 721-6305 or at the telephone number below so that any remaining issues can be promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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